

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 041353

14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041353

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, UR, US

SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT OF CORRESPONDENTS TO LENINGRAD AND  
SAN FRANCISCO

REF: A. MOSCOW 1921, B. STATE 30220

1. SOVEMBASSY PRESS COUNSELOR KAMENEV HAS REQUESTED  
PROGRESS REPORT ON PROPOSED TASS AND UPI EXCHANGE  
OF BUREAUS IN LENINGRAD AND SAN FRANCISCO.
2. IN FEBRUARY 17 TELCON WITH DEPTOFF UPI PRESIDENT  
BEATON SAID HE HAS WRITTEN TO TASS DIRECTOR ZAMYATIN  
REPORTING THAT UPI IS NOT RPT NOT INTERESTED AT THIS  
TIME IN ASSIGNING TWO AMERICANS TO LENINGRAD, BUT WOULD  
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PAGE 02 STATE 041353

WISH TO ASSIGN ONE RUSSIAN-SPEAKING AMERICAN CORRESPOND-

ENT OR, ALTERNATIVELY, AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT WITH LIMITED RUSSIAN AND SOVIET INTERPRETER-ASSISTANT- OTHER DETAILS OF TASS-UPI AGREEMENT SUCH AS COMMUNICATIONS ALSO REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT. BEATON SAID HE SUGGESTED ZAMYATIN SEND INSTRUCTIONS TO TASS NEW YORK TO PERMIT UPI-TASS NEGOTIATIONS IN NEW YORK. BEATON IS AWAITING RESPONSE.

3. FYI UPI HAS PROBLEM WITH TASS OVER RECIPROCAL FURNISHING OF PICTURES, AND WHILE PICTURES ISSUE IS SEPARATE FROM LENINGRAD-SAN FRANCISCO MATTER, IT IS A FACTOR IN OVERALL UPI-TASS RELATIONS. BRIEFLY, UPI AND TASS HAD RECIPROCAL PICTURES AGREEMENT FOR SEVERAL YEARS; TASS RECENTLY REACHED AGREEMENT WITH AP BY WHICH, ACCORDING TO BEATON, AP PAYS ABOUT 4,000 DOLLARS MONTHLY PREMIUM TO TASS; TASS TRIED TO IMPOSE SAME TERMS ON UPI ON GROUNDS IT TREATS BOTH AMERICAN WIRE SERVICES EQUALLY; AND BEATON REFUSED AND IS CANCELLING PREVIOUS PICTURE AGREEMENT. END FYI

4. IN LIGHT OF PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE, DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED KAMENEV THAT, WHILE DEPARTMENT AGREES IN PRINCIPLE TO TASS-UPI LENINGRAD-SAN FRANCISCO ARRANGEMENT, DEPARTMENT IS NOT PREPARED TO PERMIT ESTABLISHMENT OF TASS BUREAU IN SAN FRANCISCO UNTIL UPI REACHES AGREEMENT WITH TASS ON LENINGRAD OPERATION, INCLUDING COMMUNICATIONS AND HOUSING ASPECTS. WE NOTED THAT BEATON HAS WRITTEN SECOND LETTER TO ZAMYATIN AND IS AWAITING REPLY. EMBASSY MAY IF IT WISHES CONVEY SAME TO MFA/ZAMYATIN.

5. RE KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT TO SAN FRANCISCO, DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S COMMENTS REF A ABOUT OREKHOV CASE AND BELIEVES THAT BEFORE DECIDING ON OREKHOV APPLICATION WE SHOULD HAVE SOME CHANCE TO SEE HOW NEW TRAVEL REGULATIONS FOR JOURNALISTS WORK OUT IN PRACTICE. SUGGEST EMBASSY ENCOURAGE RESIDENT JOURNALISTS TO TEST OUT PARAMETERS OF NEW SYSTEM AS SOON AS IT GOES INTO EFFECT ON MARCH 1, PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO LENINGRAD TRIP. IF NEW REGIME IN FACT PERMITS REGULAR TRAVEL FROM MOSCOW TO LENINGRAD ON BASIS NOTI-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 041353

FICATION RATHER THAN REQUESTING PERMISSION, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE ISSUANCE OF OREKHOV VISA WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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